

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MARCH 2018

KEEPING HIGHLAND DRY

When the predicted deluge pelted the region in February, members of the Sanitary Board collectively held their breath.

Board members Rex Burton, Greg Cieslak, Dave Jones and Richard Garcia had been planning for such an event for nearly a decade. They were meeting to talk about upcoming stormwater projects when heavy rains began falling.

"Back-up generators, a detention pond, mitigation efforts that eliminate groundwater from overwhelming the system – we've done all that," said Garcia, sanitary board president. "We were hoping it would be enough to get us through this storm as we plan for the next."

Mark Knesek, operations director for Public Works, said what Highland experienced was inconvenience, not devastation.

Town Councilman Dan Vassar said there hasn't been a year in the last eight without a flood mitigation project.

"Since Day One, the council and Sanitary Board have been committed to flood relief," Vassar said. "Those projects and the tireless efforts of our employees have safeguarded Highland during major weather events."

"We monitored the river around the clock and closed Kennedy Avenue as a precaution," said Knesek, who was a member of the sanitary board before joining Public Works. "Without these projects, we would have been looking at a very different outcome."



THE PERFECT STORM

Numerous meteorological events across Northwest Indiana made February one of the wettest on record.

9 STRAIGHT DAYS ...

We experienced an impressive nine straight days with measurable snow from February 3-11, which ties records set in 2009 and 1902.

4 – 6.5 INCHES ...

Multiple episodes of heavy rain fell over the region February 19-20, dropping 4-6 inches in two days. Highland typically gets 2-3 inches total from January through March.

That rain, coupled with warm temps and snowmelt, took the Little Calumet to flood stage and caused the Kankakee River levee to fail.

THE SOLUTIONS ...

The Town Council and Sanitary Board have three priorities for long-term solutions to flooding:

- Mitigation to reduce water entering the sewer system
- Back-up energy protection
- Upgrades to a system in need

MITIGATION

Monitors identified where groundwater infiltration taxed the system. Disconnecting sump pumps made a difference as did relining leaky pipes in 2017.

PROTECTION

The project that kicked off the multi-year retrofit of the sanitary system was the purchase of massive generators that guaranteed pumps would work during power outages. In February, a back-up generator was put into service at the pump station at the Cady Marsh Ditch.

UPGRADES

Areas prone to surface flooding have been addressed. A detention pond near the Little Calumet River has eliminated backyard flooding in the Johnston Street area and remediations have curbed flooding on Martha Street near the bike path.

NO MORE SECRETS

North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan welcomes the public to the second "No More Secrets" symposium as the discussion to protect children from sexual abuse advances. The free event offers continuing education credit for counselors, social workers and other qualifying professionals.

WHEN: 4 to 7 p.m. **MARCH 19**

WHERE: Purdue University Northwest, Alumni Hall.

ONLINE REGISTRATION:
nomoresecretsnwi.eventbrite.com

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at Highland's monthly neighborhood watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **MARCH 14**

WHERE: HPD Community Room

INFO: Please call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND RECEIVES \$10,000 FORESTRY GRANT TO REPLACE 100 EMERALD ASH BORER TREES

A year in the planning, the town's fledgling tree program is launching its first planting season with a boost from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

A forestry grant awarded by INDNR is providing funds to purchase and plant 100 deciduous trees – 50 this spring and another 50 in the fall.

The trees will fill in residential parkways left vacant when dead and dying ash trees afflicted with the emerald ash borer had to be cut down.

Richard Underkofler, volunteer partnership liaison for the town's Urban Forest Management Plan, said the town has removed 349 diseased ash trees and will take down another 58 this year.

The town will add another 4,900 trees over the next 30 years – a move that will increase the tree canopy from 19 percent to 25 percent by 2050.

Trees help by cleaning the air, storing vast amounts of water and making a community a more attractive place to live. 🌿

THE URBAN FOREST

Highland's Urban Forest Management Plan details how its 10,011 trees will be managed over the next 32 years, beginning this year. The \$10,000 grant will help cover the removal of Emerald Ash Borer diseased trees as well as purchasing and planting replacement trees along street right-of-ways.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov to download the Urban Forest Management Plan, which includes a tree inventory report, annual maintenance program, tree risk assessment, best practices and more.



TREES HELP KEEP TOWN'S AIR, WATER CLEAN

It's a well-known fact that homes with mature trees sell faster and at a better price than their treeless counterparts.

When it comes to trees, though, the benefits are more than bark deep.

As it turns out, those stately oaks and stunning redbuds filter pollutants from the air and water.

A mature tree soaks up 400 gallons of water per day before sending it into the atmosphere where it provides oxygen for up to four people.

When drenching rains soak the landscape, it is tree roots that absorb some of the excess, reducing ponding and stormwater runoff.

If you are planning a spring planting, the Arbor Day Foundation recommends choosing your species carefully as well as your location:

- ✓ Trees planted near power lines should grow to be no taller than 20 feet.
- ✓ Stay clear from buried water, sewer and electric lines. Those same roots that reduce flooding after rains can grow into sewer pipes while they are seeking a ready supply of water. 🌿



The spring issue of **My Community. My Water.** — found in this month's water bill — features the following:

DON'T FLUSH MEDICATIONS: Sewage treatment does not remove medications from wastewater. Flushed medications end up in the Little Calumet River and Lake Michigan where it can harm aquatic wildlife and our drinking water.

HIGHLAND ROOKERY: The Highland Rookery comes to life during the spring. Learn how these majestic birds rely on clean water and an unpolluted habitat.

TIPS: Clean water starts with you! Here are a few ways to get started.

Highland Business Spotlight



AN ECLECTIC HUB FOR ART & ART SERVICES

PROMISE YOU ART HOUSE

A family of artists with a dream and a century-old diamond-in-the-rough have combined to create Promise You Art House, the town's newest art gallery.

Featuring the dazzling as well as the unique, the five members of the Lubarski family have created an art experience – and a following.

In addition to the artworks of the Lubarski siblings – David, Rachel and Zachary – Promise You Art House has collage art, paintings, sculptures, carvings, even delicate handmade jewelry displayed throughout the first floor.

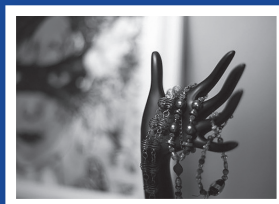
Gallery curator David Lubarski said three dozen artists are already on board.

"We pick things we've never seen before," Lubarski said. "Our artists are as unique as they are solid."

With the 107-year-old house fully refurbished, the family is moving forward with plans to bring community events to the Kennedy Avenue location.

"The Art House resonates with every person in a different way," Lubarski said. "We love to see people come in here to browse and enjoy what we have."

LEARN MORE AT PYARTHOUSE.COM



PROMISE YOU ART HOUSE

8830 Kennedy Avenue
219.595.0097

"As owners and artists we understand the value of exposure and we want to be able to offer the Art House as a space to make that happen. ... Promise You is our belief that working together helps us to grow together, this in turn builds a creative community."

HOURS

Thursday: 4 -8 p.m.

Friday: 4-8 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.



CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE

Join the American Legion for a family-friendly St. Patrick's buffet dinner featuring hearty portions of corned-beef, cabbage, buttery red potatoes, glazed carrots, bread, coffee, pop and water. A 50/50 raffle, cash bar and \$2 drafts will also be available.

WHEN: 1 to 6 p.m. **MARCH 17**

WHERE: American Legion Post 180, 2703 Jewett Avenue

COST: \$11 includes free drink. Kids under 5 eat free. Tickets may be purchased in advance for only \$10 at the legion after 3 p.m.

INFO: (219) 972-3948

ST. JAMES GARAGE SALE

Hunt for gently-used gems and enjoy homemade goodies at the rummage, pierogi and bake sale, hosted by St. James Women's Guild. Clothes are \$5 a bag. Other items priced as marked.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, **MARCH 23** and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, **MARCH 24**.

DONATIONS: Donations may be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, **MARCH 21** and Thursday, **MARCH 22**. No large furniture items, please.

WHERE: St James the Less Church Hall, 9640 Kennedy

INFO: (219) 924-4220

BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

Registration for the Highland Babe Ruth League's 2018 season has been extended through March. Limited space remains.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR LEAGUE: Ages 16 to 19

FE: \$200 per player

NOTE: Players for both divisions must reside in Lake County, IN.

INFO: Contact HBR President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.

JUNIOR PAINT WORKSHOPS

Trained Instructor Stephanie Spencer will lead youth - ages 7 through 12 - step-by-step as they paint their own 12" x 12" canvas. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required.

WHEN: 5-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, **MARCH 8** (clover/lady bug) and **APRIL 19** (bunny).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FE: \$15 residents / \$18 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CANVAS PAINT WORKSHOPS

Trained Instructor Stephanie Spencer will show you step-by-step how to paint your own 16" x 20" canvas. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required. Ages 13 and older.

WHEN: 6:30-9 p.m. Thursdays, **MARCH 8** (Irish luck) and **APRIL 19** (flower pot bunny).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Enjoy shopping for comic books, sports cards, autographs and other memorabilia in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale, featuring household items, books and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **MARCH 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

MOTHER/SON OLYMPIC NIGHT

Mothers and their sons — ages 3 to 13 — are invited to join us for an evening of Olympic competitions and obstacle courses. A victory party with pizza and beverages will end the night. One free 5" x 7" photo per couple.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. **APRIL 6**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

FE: Couples are \$20 for residents, \$25 for nonresidents; \$10/\$12.50 for additional sons.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

Registration begins this month for the adult softball season. Men's and co-ed team fees due by **MARCH 31**. Rosters are limited to 20 players.

WHEN: Season begins **APRIL 16**. First games start at 6:30 p.m. Sundays start at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Register at LCC, play at SAC

TEAM FE: \$700 for minimum 16 games. League structure dependent on teams registered.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

KICKAROO KARATE KIDS

A fun, non-contact program that inspires self-esteem, builds character and prepares young children - ages 3-5 - to face life's challenges. There are no elements of sparring or practicing against one another. Dress comfortably.

WHEN: 3:15 to 3:50 p.m. or 4 to 4:35 p.m.

Mondays, **APRIL 16** — **JUNE 4** (off 5/28).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FE: \$55 residents / \$60 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

Happy Easter Highland!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast. The event features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny. Continental breakfast includes: donuts, granola bar or Rice Krispie treat, bananas, grapes, milk, juice, coffee. Children receive a McDonalds coupon and pinwheel.

WHEN: Saturday, March 24

SEATINGS: 8:30 and 10 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High cafeteria

TICKETS: \$6 and must be purchased in advance at Lincoln Center, the chamber, Centier or First Financial banks. Order tickets online at highlandgriffithchamber.com/payment.

For more information

Call (219) 923-3666 or visit highlandgriffithchamber.com.

12th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Park for the 12th annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 1 to 10 are invited to hunt for filled eggs until the last egg is found! DJ music and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be part of the day's activities.

WHEN: 10 a.m. March 24

WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion

INFO: (219) 932-2530, ext. 331

